

Brit. ANN. 1<sup>st</sup>

N<sup>o</sup> 18

A  
S E R M O N

Preach'd on the  
'Thanksgiving-Day,

F O R T H E

Happy Union

O F

G R E A T B R I T A I N.

Under Her Sacred Majesty Q U E E N  
A N N E, May the 1<sup>st</sup>, 1707.

By R O B E R T D A V I D S O N, Rector  
of Hayes in Kent.

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THE NEW

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Printed on the

Thanksgiving Day

FOR THE

Happy Union



NEW YORK

Under the

NEW YORK

By Robert Davidson, Editor

of the New York

TO THE NEW YORK

Printed by the New York

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THE  
EPISTLE  
DEDICATORY.

To Captain JOHN TROTTER.

Dear Sir,

**T**HE Unanimity of the First Parliament of Great Britain, that's now sitting, as it gives all Her Well-Wishers a fresh Occasion of Blessing God for the UNION, so it hath encourag'd me to send my late Thanksgiving Sermon (as my First Essay) to the Press; the which, since I design it only for the Use of my Friends, I know none whom I can better present with the

## ii The Epistle Dedicatory.

*Dedication of it than Your Self; having a most entire Affection and Respect for You, as well on the Account of Blood and Alliance, as of Your own Personal Worth; the Courage You have shewn through the whole Course of Your Life, whereof You receiv'd an Early Mark, which will distinguish You to Your Death; and the Conduct that You us'd in bringing Home a great Fleet of Ships from Barbadoes, in the Year 1705. under Your Sole Convoy, in the Warwick. These Things, as they have gain'd You a Reputation among all that have heard of you, so they have render'd Your Name Honourable to Your Relations.*

*The Happy UNION of this Island, which hath been lately Matter of so much Joy to Her Inhabitants, was at first occasion'd by an Accident that fell out at Norham; a Place whereof Your Dear Grandfather (my own Grand Uncle) the Reverend Mr. Alexander Davidson, was Minister above Fifty Years, (bating his Sequestration in the Time of the*  
Great

## The Epistle Dedicatory. iii

*Great Rebellion) a Man as Noted on both Sides the Tweed, for his great Age, and chiefly for his Hospitality, as any Clergyman in the North of England hath been for some Ages: A Man who in his Life was a Credit to his Family, and whose Memory is still precious among all Good Men that knew him.*

*The Story of that Accident, tho' I doubt not but you know it; yet for the Satisfaction of others, into whose Hands these Sheets may come, and that all may see from what small Occasions great Matters have been brought to pass, it may not be amiss to give the Substance of it here, as follows.*

*It was in the Time of King Henry VII. of England, and James IV. of Scotland, that after a War wherein the Two Crowns were engag'd on the Account of the Famous Perkin Warbeck, the Counterfeit Duke of York, a Truce for some Years was at last Happily concluded: During this Truce certain Scottish Young Men came to the*  
*Town*

## iv The Epistle Dedicatory.

Town of *Norham*, which is separated from *Scotland* only by the River *Tweed*; and having little to do they would go and look upon the *Castle*, which belong'd to the *Bishop of Durham*, and was then strong enough, but is now Ruinous. Some of the *Garrison* of the *Castle* observing them, quarrell'd with them as *Spys*; whereupon they fell to *Blows*, so that many were wounded on either Side, and some of the *Scots* were kill'd: Complaint of this being made to King *James*, he took it so much to Heart that he protested, that if *Reparation* was not done according to the *Conditions* of the *Truce* he would denounce *War*. *Richard Fox*, *Bishop of Durham*, understanding this *Discontent*, and being troubled that the *Occasion* of a *New War* should be given by his *Men*, he wrote discreet and submissive *Letters* to the King of *Scotland*: With these the King being *Mollified*, he sent to speak with the *Bishop*, as well about the  
Com-

## The Epistle Dedicatory. v

Compounding of the present Differences, as about other Matters that might concern the Good of both Kingdoms. When the Bishop was come to him at the Abby of *Melross*, the King first uttered his Offence at the Breach of the Truce, by the Bishop's Men, at *Norham Castle*; and after he told the Bishop apart, That these Temporary Truces and Peace were soon made and soon broken, but that he desir'd a stricter Amity with the King of *England*; discovering his Mind, That if King *Henry* would give him in Marriage his Eldest Daughter, the Lady *Margaret*, that indeed might be a Knot indissolvable; That he knew what Place and Power the Bishop deservedly had at *Court*, and therefore if he would take the Business to Heart, and deal effectually in it, he doubted not but it would succeed. The Bishop promising to do his best Endeavour, return'd from *Scotland*, went to his own King at *London*, and gave an Account of what

## vi The Epistle Dedicatory.

what had passed. Upon this a Treaty of Marriage was begun, which shortly after was concluded; and thereby the Happy UNION of the Two Kingdoms was in Time brought to pass, as is shew'd in the following Discourse.

*This Story is particularly Related by every Historian who hath wrote of those Times; and for this Reason I suppose it is that Dr. Chamberlain, in his Present State of England, saith it, to the Honour of the English Clergy, That the Former UNION was owing to the Foresight of Bishop Fox.*

*This Relation hath so Lengthned out this Epistle, that I shall add no more, but my Wishes, that both the Fleets and the Armys of Great Britain, may have many such Captains as your Self, who will freely venture Life and Limb for Her Honour; who will rather die upon the Spot than turn their Back upon Her Enemy.*

*I am sincerely,*

Your Most Affectionate Brother,

A N D

Real Friend and Servant,

*Robert Davidson.*

Brit. A N N. 11A

A  
S E R M O N

Preach'd on the  
'Thanksgiving-Day, &c.

E Z E K. XXXVII. 22.

*I will make them one Nation in the Land, upon the Mountains of Israel, and one King shall be King to them all ; and they shall be no more Two Nations, neither shall they be divided into Two Kingdoms, any more at all.*

**I**N these Words, God did once promise an **Union**, or Incorporation, of *Israel* and *Judab*, [Two Nations that were  
B nearly

nearly allied already] as one of the greatest Blessings that could possibly come to both; as a Means of raising them to the Height of Grandeur and Renown: And since that is now Literally made good to the People of this Happy Island, all that have any Concern for the Prosperity of it, must needs (this Day) see the Providence, and acknowledge the Goodness of our Heavenly Father therein.

We now behold a Day that hath been long look'd for; a Day that hath been often wish'd, and earnestly desir'd by those who have been concern'd for the Happiness, and seen the Interest of BRITAIN; her Inhabitants; who (to their great Advantage) have been under One Head for an Age, (and something better) are now happily United in one Body, and become one People, enjoying all the same Privileges, and Advantages, and Interests: By which Means (tis to be hoped) all Ground of Animosity and

and Jealousy is remov'd from them: They are for ever secur'd from dividing again; and no Enemy shall be able to come in upon them from abroad. For this our Gracious *Queen* (whose Government has been a continued Course of Glorious Successes) hath shewed a particular Zeal and Concern, recommending it to Her Parliament, in the First Speech that she made from the Throne: And now that it is accomplished, She doth account it the great Glory of her Reign. At this, *England* in general hath already express'd great Satisfaction, in those Numerous Addresses [full of Loyalty and Gratulation] which are daily presented to Her Majesty from all Quarters. By this the Peace and Quiet of us, and our Posterity, is more secur'd, than by all those late Victories, [great as they were!] which we have gain'd abroad. And the Advantages of this UNION are so obvious, that I verily believe, all *Europe* is now saying that in good Earnest of us  
which

which we read, *Gen. 11 6.* and which I had once Thoughts of setting forth as the Subject of my Discourse on this Occasion. *Behold the People is one, and they have all one Language, and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrain'd from them which they have imagin'd to do!* But [for ever ador'd be the Goodness of our Merciful God] the Case of *Great Britain*, at this Day, is as truly, as fully set forth in the Words which I have now read out of the Prophet *Ezekiel*; *I will make them one Nation in the Land, upon the Mountains of Israel, (saith God) and one King shall be King to you all; and they shall be no more Two Nations, neither shall they be divided into Two Kingdoms, any more at all.*

On Occasion of which Words, I shall not stand to shew when this Promise was fulfilled, or how far it remains yet to be fulfilled to the People of *Israel* and *Judah*; but my Discourse shall be wholly upon that for which we have now been offering up our  
Praises

Praises and Adorations, to the God of our Joy and Strength, the UNION of *England* and *Scotland*, which this Day commenceth, and is now happily accomplish'd. And on this Argument I shall endeavour,

*First*, To give a true and an Historical Account of it; shewing on what Motives it hath been so often attempted, and by what Steps it hath been at last brought to pass. Under which Head you will perceive some of the great Advantages of it, and see what Reason all we have to be (this Day) Thankful for it.

*Secondly*, I shall represent that Temper which must now be in the Inhabitants of GREAT BRITAIN; that they may not defeat the Ends of this UNION, nor obstruct those Advantages which are the Natural Results of it. In the

*First* Place, I shall endeavour to give a true and an Historical Account of the UNION of the late Two Kingdoms of *England* and  
C *Scotland*,

*Scotland*, which this *Day* commenceth ; shewing on what *Motives* it hath been so often attempted, and by what *Steps* it hath been at last brought to pass. Under which *Head* I shall have *Occasion* to shew some of the great *Advantages* of it.

Now to this *Purpose*, let it be considered, How that by the *Scituation* which *God*, when he laid the *Foundation* of the *Earth*, did give this *Countrey*, (that is now, and was of Old call'd *BRITAIN*) the *Inhabitants* of it, above most other *People* in these *Parts* of the *World*, if they have but *UNION* among themselves, can hardly miss of some of the greatest *Blessings* of *Humane Life* ; and nothing but their own selves can disturb them, in the *Enjoyment* of those *Things* which are accounted the truest *Happiness* that this *World* can give. As,

*First*, *BRITAIN* being an *Island* encompass'd with the *Sea*, as a *Wall* of *Defence* on every *Side*, is not subject to those sudden

den Invasions, and hasty Ravages, which they often feel who live on the *Continent*; but is a Place design'd, as 'twere by Nature, for a safe and a peaceable Habitation, wherein Men may live at Ease, remote from those Broils whereby the World is too often set all on a Flame, and no Rest is left in it for the Sons of Men.

It was an Observation that I made long since, in the reading of History, *That most of the Islands in the World did at first receive their Inhabitants from the Neighbouring Continent, on Occasion of the Troubles and Wars that were therein; and when Men could not live quietly and peaceably on the Main Land, then they committed themselves to the Ocean, and found out Places in that where they might be easy and secure.* Of this they say there was a Famous Instance, at the Inundation of the Barbarous Nations on the *Roman Empire*: Where the People fleeing from *Attila*, the Mighty Captain of the *Huns*,

*Hunns*, and calling to one another, *Venite, Venite, Come, Come*; are said to have given the Name of *Venice* to a Knot of Islands that have been Famous enough since. And this is most certain, that when all the World besides hath been in a Combustion, many Islands have yet enjoy'd a profound Calm and Peace, as (blessed be God for it!) there are several Instances in *Europe* at this Day.

*Secondly*, Another Advantage that we have by the Scituation of this Island, is, that our Climate having an excellent Temperature of Heat and Cold, the Soil is wonderfully productive of all Things necessary for the Life of Man: And moreover, we lie so convenient for a Trade with all Parts of the World, that if we have no Disturbance at Home, we can both soon and easily fetch whatsoever any other Country hath, that serves for the Pleasure of Man's Life.

Trade and Commerce is known to be the making and enriching of any Countrey,  
and

and next to Religion, nothing adds to the Prosperity of a People like it: But we certainly, of all People under the Sun, have the fairest Opportunity of using that; whose Countrey is wash'd round with the Salt Waves, whose Harbours are so Numerous, so Capacious, and so safe, and whose Ships need not go from Home without their Loading, but whose Land abounds with those Things which many Countreys will be glad to take off our Hands; and (which ought not to be forgot, which ought not to be neglected) whose Seas are stor'd with such Things as other Nations will thank us, and pay us well for bringing unto them. There is yet a

*Third* Advantage which our Island hath from its Scituation, and whereunto it seems to be peculiarly design'd of God, who laid the Foundations of the Earth: That is, to decide the Controversys that may arise betwixt many other Countreys; to receive

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Appeals

Appeals from Nations that are wrong'd or oppress'd by their Neighbours, and to see that the Ballance (at least) of *Europe* be kept. The Largeness of this our Island, and the Strength of its Shipping, do certainly put it into a Condition of giving a Check to any one that should go about to oppress *Europe*, provided it be done in Time, before the Oppressor hath got too much a Head: And the Aspect it hath to most of the Countreys in *Europe* is such, that whoever looks upon the Map, he will see that there's none other unto which all can so easily make their Appeals, as this. These are some of the principal Advantages which Nature seems to have design'd for this Island. The People of it (thro' the Blessing of God) may have Peace and Plenty at Home, and be in great Credit and Repute Abroad: But then to this End it is absolutely necessary, that all Dissentions and Hostilitys cease among them, and that they be perfectly joyn'd

joyn'd together. If they bite and devour one another, they must unavoidably not only lose these Advantages, but as the Apostle saith, *Gal. 5. 15. Let them take heed that they be not consum'd one of another.* And we heard from our Blessed Saviour's Mouth, in the Gospel, (for the Day) *That if a House be divided against it self, that House cannot so much as stand.* Of this indeed all the wiser and better Part of this Island have a long Time been sufficiently aware; and therefore in Love to their Countrey, for the Sake of themselves and their Posterity, they have ever been wishing, that the Thing could by any Means be brought about, which we are so happy as to see accomplish'd now.

For some Ages indeed, an UNION among all the Inhabitants of BRITAIN was utterly impracticable. So long<sup>as</sup> that Part of it which is now call'd *England*, was so greatly divided in it self as to have no less than Seven  
King-

Kingdoms, differing in their Usages and Interests. During that Time, and all along before it, there was no such Thing to be thought on, as the seeing of all the People of this Island United in one Body: But when the *Saxons* once form'd themselves into a Monarchy, and came all to be govern'd by one King, it seems they begun very early to perceive the Advantages of having something like an UNION with their Neighbours the *Scots*, who a little before had subdued and extirpated the *Picts*. For to that Purpose not only was *Cumberland*, &c. given to the Prince of *Scotland*, as a Tye and Engagement of Friendship, but new Alliances were often sought with that Prince; especially at the Time when *England* was infested by the *Danes*: The Benefit of which growing daily more apparent, these became still more frequent after the Coming of the *Normans*.

For a long Time, 'tis true, the Kings of *England* did seek to make themselves Masters of this whole Island, by Force of Arms: And I find Two Reasons mention'd in the Historys, which enclin'd them to persist in such an Enterprize, to the great Loss both of their Men and their Money. One was, That the *Scots* being a hardy and a restless People, were at every Turn making Incur-sions on the Borders of *England*, and could never be kept long from disturbing the Peace of this Island at Home. Another, that whenever the *English* were engag'd in War Abroad, and their Arms like to be Victo-rious, their Enemys were wont to engage the *Scots* to give a Diversion. For these Reasons it was that the Crown of *England* put it self to a vast Expence (both of Mo-ney and Blood) for the gaining of *Scotland*. But Time proving how Fruitless an Attempt this was,

The *First* Effectual Step which was made towards this which we now see accomplish'd, was above Two Hundred Years since, in the Reign of King *Henry VII.* (That Prince who put an End to those Bloody Contests which had been betwixt the Two Houses of *Lancaster* and *York*, for the Crown of *England*;) By the Marriage of his eldest Daughter, the Lady *Margaret*, to King *James IV.* of *Scotland*, Such an Alliance was made betwixt the Two Crowns, as in Time brought them to sit upon one Head, and hath now made the Two into One. For the direct Line of the Crown of *England* failing, in the Immortal *Queen Elizabeth*, King *James VI.* of *Scotland*, the Great Grand-Son of the said Lady *Margaret*, and the Great Grand-Father of Her present Majesty, came peaceably, as next Heir to the Throne of GREAT BRITAIN; and so brought all the Inhabitants of it under One King, to the Unspeakable Joy of both Nations; who

were

were already of One Language, and a little before had renounc'd the Errors and Corruptions of the Church of *Rome*.

But tho' this happily brought the Two Nations under One King, and so put an End to all those Rapines which they had been wont to commit upon one another, yet their Interest still continuing separate, and *Scotland* (stinted in the Matter of Trade) being unable to afford that Help to *England* which otherwise it might, therefore Wise Men did apprehend that they might One Day divide again, and so fall into such a State as might render both an easy Prey to their Enemies on the other Side the Water, who are now grown stronger and more Formidable than heretofore. So soon therefore as the last Happy Uniter ascended the Throne of *England*, Designs were laid, and Endeavours were us'd, to make of Two One Nation; that so all Matter of Jealousie and Envy being remov'd, we might be  
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One Body, under One Head. These Endeavours were continued and renewed, throughout the Reigns of all the succeeding Monarchs of GREAT BRITAIN ; as appears by several Acts of the Parliament of each Kingdom. But this being a Work very nice and difficult, it could never be Effected, 'till now that Her present Majesty (for whom nothing seems to be too great, that is for the Good of Her People) hath Consummated the UNION of GREAT BRITAIN: And long, long may She live to see the Happy Effects of it.

Now therefore we who are separated by the Ocean from all the World, are no more Two but One Nation. Whatever Enemies from henceforth we may have, if we continue as we are, they shall never be able to make our Countrey the Seat of War. Every Part of this Island shall now be able to contribute towards the Defence and Honour of the whole. Now those Countreys  
which

which were formerly Borders, exercis'd in all Cruelty and Rapine, are become the Centre of a Mighty Kingdom, secure from all Violence and Oppression: And now is this Island put into a Condition of attaining to the full Enjoyment of all those Advantages which God and Nature seem to have design'd for its Inhabitants, when it was at first laid out. We are put ( I say ) into a Condition of attaining these: For as is seasonably intimated in the *Queen's Proclamation* which appointed this *Thanksgiving*, Unless we have Hearts dispos'd to become One People, the Design of Her Majesty and Her Counsellors (who have Effected this Happy Union) will in a great Measure be defeated: And therefore I promis'd in the

*Second Place*, To recommend that Temper which must now be in the Inhabitants of GREAT BRITAIN; that they may not obstruct those Advantages which are the

Natural Result of the UNION which hath this Day Commenc'd: That is, the same which the Apostles of our Lord do so often enjoin all Christians, as a Thing indispensibly requir'd of all that Name the Name of Christ; as a Thing that will be an Ornament to their Holy Profession, and secure them against the Attempts of their Enemyes. Such is, to speak all the same Thing, that there be no Divisions among them; but that they be perfectly joyn'd together in the same Mind, and in the same Judgment; as is said, 1 Cor. 1. 10. Such is, to be *all of one Mind, having Compassion one of another, to be pitiful, to be courteous, not rendring evil for evil, or railing for railing, but contrarywise Blessing; knowing that we are thereunto called, that we may inherit a Blessing,* as St Peter speaketh, 1 Pet. 3. 8, 9. And such is, to let all Bitterness, and Wrath, and Anger, and Clamour, and evil speaking, with all Malice, to be put away from us, and to be kind

kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us. Eph. 4. 31, 32.

Besides those Tyes of Blood and Vicinity which the Inhabitants of GREAT BRITAIN have had for many Ages, they should remember their Relation as they are Protestants: And how greatly soever their Fore-Fathers did differ of Old, in their Language and Customs, yet of a long Time now these have been the same; insomuch that the Difference at this Day, between the late Two Kingdoms, is no more than what may be perceiv'd among all the several Countys in *England*. And why should any grudge them a Share in the Advantages of *England*, who have spent Rivers of Blood, who have lost Millions of Men in the Service of Her, in the Space of an Hundred Years last past? And who will still rather bring to Her than take from Her, as is obvious to all Thinking Men, and was wisely

wisely foreseen as long ago as the Days of King *Henry VII.*

As for the present People of *Scotland*, their Nobility, and their Gentry, of the better Rank, are Noted for their Humanity, their Good Manners, and their Learning: And it cannot well be otherwise, since there are few of them but what do visit most of the Courts in *Europe*; where they generally stay so long as to see the Breeding, but not to learn the Vices of these. Their Soldiers are remarkable not only for their Courage, but their Hardiness, in the enduring both of Labour and Want; inso-much that scarce has a Battle been fought in *Europe* for many Ages, but some *Scotchman* hath Signaliz'd himself in it; and as few of them have been Branded with Cowardice in the Field, as of any Nation under Heaven. Their Common People are generally very obedient and respectful to all above them, and are utterly ignorant of many Vices

Vices which abound in more Opulent Countreys: And their Clergy, before the late Revolution, were Learned and Orthodox; Canonically Ordain'd by Bishops, and Preaching God's Holy Word to his Glory, and the Edification of Sober and Judicious Christians. In short, They are a People who have had an uninterrupted Succession of Kings and Queens for Two Thouländ Years; Her present Majesty being the 113th of their Royal Race. A People whom the *Romans* were fain to keep out of their Conquests by an High Wall of a prodigious Length; and from whom the *Danes* receiv'd so many, and such fearful Overthrows, that *Scotland* was accounted their Grave.

May this UNION then be solid, and hearty, and may it last so long as the World endureth. Farewel all those Jealousies and Animosities, which were heretofore rais'd, and kept up by our Common Enemys, and

serv'd to no other End but to Expose us to the Scorn and the Malice of those that hate us.

Hail GREAT UNITED BRITAIN, laid out by Nature, and now advanc'd of God, to be the Refuge of the Oppressed, the Check of Neighbouring Tyrants, the Arbiters of the Affairs of *Europe*, the Pillar of the Protestant Cause, and the Wonder and Glory of the whole Earth!

May the Sins of thy Inhabitants never intercept those Rays of the Divine Favour that are now coming on thee from on High. May all the People know, in this their Day, the Things that belong to their Peace. And may thy Gracious *ANNE* long sway thy Mighty Sceptre, and go late, late to that other Kingdom, where alone Her Glorys and thy Happiness can be exceeded; and let all the People say *Amen*.

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